

CANADIAN BRAIN RESEARCH STRATEGY

CBRS 2023 Annual Funders' Coalition Meeting Report

Meeting Date: October 30th, 2023

Jennie Z. Young, Ph.D., Executive Director, CBRS

Report Prepared On†: January 26th, 2024



MEETING OBJECTIVES

At the core of the Canadian Brain Research Strategy (CBRS) is the conviction that we need to foster better neurological and mental well-being for all Canadians. We achieve this by leveraging our strengths to drive progress in brain and mental health research across the country.

The CBRS Funders' Coalition serves as a forum for participants to engage, connect, and cultivate collaborations in advancing brain research and mental health initiatives. Through ongoing discourse, shared insights, and alignment of strategic priorities, our goal is to facilitate collective action and position brain and mental health research as a national priority.

Meeting Objectives:

1. **Promote networking** to strengthen connections and potential collaborations.
2. **Share the latest achievements, milestones, and upcoming plans** of the CBRS Funders' Coalition to empower funders to play a more strategic and impactful role in supporting brain and mental health research.
3. **Discuss and strategize government outreach** and wider engagement, and establish a clear roadmap for collaborative advocacy efforts.

SUMMARY

The CBRS Funders' Coalition gathered for its third annual meeting on October 30th, 2023 over Zoom. This meeting brought together 21 representatives of 20 research funding organizations in the brain and mental health ecosystem, including local, provincial and federal entities, health charities and other non-profits, industry partners, and private foundations. The meeting provided a collaborative platform for insightful discussions and networking, and reinforced our shared commitment to advancing brain and mental health research across the country.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. Roundtable Introductions and Partnership Opportunities

Participants provided insights into their organization's strengths and unique contributions, and detailed ongoing and upcoming opportunities for partnership.

Please see Appendix 1 for:

- Detailed bios of the organizations within the CBRS Funders' Coalition.
- A compilation of partnership opportunities shared in the survey prior to the meeting and during the roundtable.

† Note: This report reflects information as of 30-Oct-2023. Subsequent updates may not be reflected in this document.

2. CBRS Funders' Coalition: Updates, Milestones, and Future Plans

We conducted our annual survey as part of our ongoing commitment to understand the research funding landscape. A total of 18 organizations contributed their valuable insights leading up to the meeting. **The survey will remain open until February 29th, 2024 for those organizations who have yet to participate. By completing the survey, you contribute valuable insights that strengthen our collective impact and inform strategic initiatives.**

The preliminary survey findings reveal (see graphs in Appendix 2):

- A robust **increase in current funding** for brain research from previous years, surpassing \$480 million through more than 1,500 grants. This highlights the growing need for intensified research investment in the urgent issue of brain and mental health.
- A commitment to **multi-level impact and global collaboration** - the Coalition maintains a strong national focus (in line with the scope of our national strategy) while showing increasing support for local, provincial, and international programs.
- A **diversity of organizational budgets** underscores the collective strength of the Coalition, allowing organizations of varying sizes to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of brain and mental health research initiatives.
- A **cohesive alignment on our strategic priorities** within the CBRS Funders' Coalition and common values on collaborative engagement with key stakeholder groups.

Together, we are working towards shared goals to advance a collaborative, transdisciplinary, and open brain research ecosystem. To that end, we have held a series of focused meetings with funders, including:

- **Diversity & Team Science - Oct 28, 2022**
 - See summary in Appendix 3; Full report available for download*
- **Transdisciplinary Research & Training (Patient Partners) - Mar 21, 2023**
 - See summary in Appendix 3; Draft report available for download*
- **Indigenous Initiatives - May 2, 2023**
 - See summary in Appendix 3; Full report available for download*
- **Open Science - Oct 2, 2023**
 - Report forthcoming

These meetings facilitated in-depth discussions, idea exchange, and strategic planning among Coalition members. We are actively following up on the reports generated from these meetings. These reports are intended to serve as dynamic green papers, encouraging ongoing contributions and insights from Coalition members and the broader funding community.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for a multi-stakeholder Indigenous Initiatives Workshop: Two-Eyed Seeing Through Compound Eyes, to be held in winter 2024. We will also hold additional focused meetings in spring 2024 around our strategic priorities, including: Transdisciplinary Research & Training (Industry Partnerships), Platform Science, and others.

3. Coordinating Government Outreach and Wider Engagement

CBRS is working collaboratively through strategic advocacy efforts and policy initiatives to make brain research a national and global priority.

i. Direct Engagement with Federal Government

- **Submission of policy briefs* to key entities, including:**
 - Parliamentary Committee on Science and Research (SRSR)

- Pre-budget consultations led by the Finance Committee (FINA) and Department of Finance
- **Testimony for the SRSR study on International Moonshot Programs**
 - CBRS Advisory Leadership members Dr. Guy Rouleau and Dr. Yoshua Bengio as well as Executive Director Dr. Jennie Z. Young* were invited to testify
 - Joint advocacy with 16 brief submissions by Coalition members and others to amplify our call for a coordinated national strategy for brain research

CBRS is engaging a government relations firm to facilitate higher-level interactions and will ensure ongoing communication and information exchange on these meetings with Coalition members. We will also continue to coordinate with other organizations in the brain research and general research advocacy space in submitting policy briefs. Through transparency and collaboration, our goal is to fortify and align the messages conveyed to the federal government, presenting a unified and coordinated brain research ecosystem.

ii. Collaborative Partnerships for Broader Advocacy

- **Advocacy Panel at the 2023 Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN) Annual Meeting**
 - Participants: CAN, CBRS, Neurological Health Charities Canada (NHCC), and Brain Canada Foundation
 - Goal: To explore avenues for increased funding for brain research in Canada
 - Key Outcome: Joint advocacy statement highlighting the critical importance of advancing brain research
- **Panel Presentation Organized by CBRS in the Health Policy Symposium at the 2023 Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC)***
 - Participants: Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP), Teralys Capital, Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF), Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI), Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN), and an early career researcher
 - Goal: To underscore the profound impact of strategic investment in brain research, with an emphasis on its implications for Canada's economic prosperity, technological innovation, healthcare sustainability, and the overall health and societal well-being of Canadians
 - Key Outcome: The panel made a compelling case for targeted investment in brain research, emphasizing the necessity for a coordinated, transdisciplinary ecosystem that is driven by the imperative to gain a comprehensive understanding of the human brain across the lifespan. The panel will draft a series of editorials to further communicate these crucial messages.

CBRS is gearing up for an impactful Brain Awareness Week (BAW, March 11-17, 2024) through united advocacy efforts that will mobilize individual researchers, institutions and research centres, and organizations, including funders and patient groups. This coordinated effort during BAW seeks to amplify a unified message to garner support and raise awareness for the crucial role of research in brain health and the overall well-being of Canadians.

iii. Shaping Global Policy on Brain Research and Health

- **Global Partnerships in Brain Research led by the European Brain Council (EBC)**
 - Stakeholders: International health organizations such as WHO, international research organizations and professional societies, patient advocates, key academic and research leaders representing regional viewpoints across the 6 major continents, industry stakeholders, and strategic initiatives such as CBRS and others
 - Goal: Strengthening global research collaboration to address the worldwide impact of brain conditions and improve brain health.

- Ongoing Initiatives: Ongoing high-level international meetings are addressing shared challenges in brain research through collaborative efforts in knowledge and data sharing, capacity building, funding, and policy initiatives
- **Strategic Engagement at the United Nations for Global Brain Health and Research**
 - Stakeholders: Representatives from organizations in global and regional health, research in academia and industry, patient advocacy, strategic initiatives such as CBRS, and other key thought leaders in brain and mental health
 - Goal: To collaboratively shape global policies on brain research and health through active participation in the Science Summit of the UN General Assembly, Summit of the Future 2024, and the High Level Conference on the HN NCD Strategy 2025
 - Ongoing Initiatives: Developing a comprehensive Call to Action and Policy Recommendations on Global Partnership in Brain Research to guide policymakers at national, regional and global levels to better address brain health

There is growing recognition that the key to tackling global challenges in brain health is through advancing brain research. We will continue to coordinate around shared international objectives to influence policy decisions and resource allocations for brain health and research.

KEY ACTION POINTS

1. Reports from Focused Meetings:

- New Coalition members are invited to review existing reports and contribute any relevant information on their programs for integration*
- Coalition members with outstanding details, kindly send required information to ensure complete and informative reports*
- A draft report on Open Science will be shared for review in the near future

2. Annual Funders' Coalition Survey:

- Funders who have not filled out the survey, please do so by February 29th, 2024 – your insights are crucial to strengthening our collective impact: <https://forms.gle/2hZTeZpcKs5k8Kid7>

3. Upcoming Funders' Meetings:

- Prepare to spread awareness and take part in the multi-stakeholder Indigenous Initiatives Workshop: Two-Eyed Seeing Through Compound Eyes, to be held in winter 2024
- Look forward to upcoming focused meetings in spring/summer 2024 on Transdisciplinary Research & Training (Industry Partnerships), Platform Science, and other strategic priorities

4. Government Outreach and Advocacy:

- CBRS will utilize our online Funders' Bulletin Board on Padlet* to share details of any scheduled meetings with senior government officials and policy advisors to facilitate coordination
 - CBRS welcomes collaborative efforts on policy brief submissions – please keep us informed on your plans
 - A survey will be distributed to gather input for joint advocacy efforts during Brain Awareness Week (March 11-17, 2024)
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ASSOCIATED MEETING MATERIALS*

- [2023 Annual Funders Coalition Meeting Agenda](#)
- [2023 Annual Funders Coalition Meeting Slides](#)
- [Who is the CBRS](#)
- [SRSR Committee Moonshot Study Opening Remarks and 16 Briefs](#)
- [CBRS 2022 Annual Funders Coalition Meeting Report](#)
- [CBRS Report on Diversity & Team Science](#)
- [CBRS Report on Indigenous Initiatives in Research](#)
- [CBRS Draft Report on Transdisciplinary Research and Training](#)
- [CSPC2023 Panel Presentation](#) - Brain Research: The cornerstone for Canada's future social-economic wealth

MEETING ATTENDEES

Akela Peoples, CEO, Mental Health Research Canada (MHRC)

Alexander Maxan, Director of Research & Strategic Partnerships, Huntington Society of Canada

Angelica Asis, Vice President, Research, Parkinson Canada

Archana Castelino, National Director, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada (DMRFC); Vice-Chair, Neurological Health Charities Canada (NHCC)

Ariane Geerts, Scientific Project Manager, CIHR Institute of Aging

Dajan O'Donnell, Director Scientific Partnerships, Cancer Research Society

David Taylor, VP Research & Strategic Partnerships, ALS Canada

Hannah Scott, Business Development Specialist, Mitacs

James Janeiro, Director, Policy and Government Relations, Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence

James Reynolds, Chief Scientific Officer, Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN)

Jennifer Wilson, VP, Research Programs, Canadian Cancer Society (CCS)

Jordan Antflick, Director, Integrated Discovery, Ontario Brain Institute (OBI)

Kate Williams, Scientific Director, Krembil Foundation

Manuel Arango, Director, Health Policy & Advocacy, Heart and Stroke Foundation Canada

Mary Alberti, CEO, Canadian Institute for Advancements in Mental Health (IAM)

Mira Puri, Manager, Science Initiatives, Azrieli Foundation

Nancy Mannix, Chair and Patron, Palix Foundation

Nicky Lewis, CEO, Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN)

Noam Ship, Medical Advisor, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd.

Sabina Antonescu, Program Operational Lead, Brain Canada

Véronique Dugas, VP, Scientific Affairs, Consortium de recherche biopharmaceutique (CQDM)



FUNDERS' COALITION BIOS†

Organization & Representative(s)	What is the mission of your organization?	What is your organization most successful at and what would you describe as unique about your organization?
<p>Alzheimer Society of Canada www.alzheimer.ca/en</p> <p><i>Josée Guimond</i> Senior Operations Manager, Research and KTE</p>	<p>To alleviate the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer's and related diseases and to promote the search for causes, treatments and a cure.</p>	<p>Offering a suite of research programs - Proof of Concept, New Investigator grant, PDF awards and Doctoral awards.</p>
<p>The Azrieli Foundation www.azrielifoundation.org</p> <p><i>Mira Puri</i> Manager, Science Initiatives</p>	<p>The Azrieli Foundation is a federally registered Canadian foundation which funds institutions as well as operates programs in Canada and in Israel. The Foundation supports scientific and medical research (neuroscience focus), higher education, Holocaust education, youth empowerment and school perseverance, music and the arts, architecture and quality of life initiatives for neurodiverse people.</p>	<p>The Azrieli Foundation's activities in brain research span fundamental discovery science to clinical translation and healthcare innovation research, primarily focused on improving health and quality of life for people with neurodevelopmental disabilities. Our strength is this breadth, and also the flexibility of funding schemes. Our funding ranges from large, multi-year programs at institutions/national networks to smaller catalytic grants, and support for symposia. In addition, we have several partnerships with publicly funded agencies including CIHR, CIFAR and Brain Canada. We take both a proactive approach to identify new areas of interest that we pursue and co-develop directly with grantees, and also have a centralized application process. We welcome the opportunity to co-develop and co-fund projects with other funding organizations, as a way to achieve "more bang for buck". We would like the collaborative environment of the CBRS Funders Coalition to help us</p>

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		both mitigate funding duplication and augment funding to areas of need identified through discussion and information sharing.
<p>Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Canada www.als.ca</p> <p>David Taylor VP Research & Strategic Partnerships</p>	<p>We work with the ALS community to improve the lives of people affected by ALS through support, advocacy and investment in research for a future without ALS. Vision: A future without ALS.</p>	<p>We are the sole national entity for ALS awareness, advocacy and research. Our particular strengths are a robust Community Services program in Ontario that provides support and care for people living with ALS and a national/global mindset & reach in advocacy and research that has made us a key part of the global conversation in many aspects.</p>
<p>Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/ca/</p> <p>Noam Ship Medical Advisor</p>	<p>For over 135 years, since our foundation by Albert Boehringer, our focus is on long-term performance rather than being limited by short-term profits. Day by day, more than 52,000 employees of Boehringer Ingelheim create value through innovation with a clear goal: to provide more health and improve the lives of both humans and animals.</p>	<p>50 years of development and implementation of new treatments in brain-related and other therapeutic areas in Canada. Global organization that discovers innovative medicines.</p>
<p>Brain Canada www.braincanada.ca</p> <p>Viviane Poupon President and CEO</p> <p>Sabina Antonescu Program Operational Lead</p>	<p>Our Vision - Bold science for brain health. Our Mission - Accelerating, amplifying, and funding brain research across Canada.</p>	<p>Brain Canada is a national, charitable organization that convenes funders and researchers to increase understanding of how the brain works, contributing to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of its diseases and disorders, and improving the health of people in Canada and globally. Brain Canada's mission is threefold: increase the scale and scope of funding to accelerate the pace of Canadian brain research; create a collective commitment to brain research across the public, private, and voluntary sectors; and promote transformative, original, and outstanding research programs that advance knowledge through four types of grants.</p>

		By developing transformative research programs that address areas critical to advancing brain research, Brain Canada has an established track record of supporting high-risk, high-reward research at all stages and across basic, translational, and clinical approaches. Grants are awarded through open, fair, and transparent processes based on scientific merit, as determined by an independent, rigorous peer-review process.
<p>Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada www.braintumour.ca</p> <p>Susan Ruypers Research Program Specialist</p>	<p>Our Vision: To find the cause of and a cure for brain tumours while improving the quality of life for those affected.</p> <p>Our Mission: To reach every person in Canada who is affected by a brain tumour through support, education, information and research.</p>	Information, Education, Support, Research and Advocacy for Brain Tumour Patients. Forming partnerships with other like organizations, we can help support where there are gaps or where they have gaps.
<p>Campus Alberta Neuroscience (CAN) www.abneuro.ca</p> <p>Jennifer Dotchin Senior Manager, Innovation, Partnerships, and Strategy</p>	Campus Alberta Neuroscience (CAN) is a provincial, not-for-profit organization that supports and accelerates innovative brain and mental health research and innovation, enhancing both brain health and the economy in Alberta. We aim to maximize the impact of neuroscience research on those affected by brain and mental health disorders and develop Alberta into an epicentre for brain health research, commercialization, and care.	CAN has successfully build a strong and diverse network of brain health stakeholders, with strategic partnerships with industry, NGO's, inter-provincial, national and health system organizations that can be leveraged to forge multifaceted collaborations to create and unleash knowledge and accelerate impact. As an umbrella organization for the neuroscience community in Alberta, CAN acts as "one-stop-shop" for access to resources, supports, programming, and events that accelerate neuroscience research, education and innovation.
<p>Canadian Cancer Society www.cancer.ca</p> <p>Jennifer Wilson VP, Research Programs</p>	Our mission: In trusted partnership with donors and volunteers, we improve the lives of all those affected by cancer through world-class research, transformative advocacy and compassionate support. Our vision is to champion world leading outcomes in cancer	<p>We are a national, community-based organization of staff and volunteers whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer.</p> <p>We fund high performance research that improves cancer outcomes and</p>

	prevention, treatment and support	addresses the greatest opportunities for progress. We lead change in the most pressing areas of cancer policy including prevention, access, affordability and support. And we provide the highest quality cancer information for all Canadians, promote cancer prevention and provide targeted support to help people with cancer, their families and caregivers cope. We set ourselves apart from other cancer charities by taking a comprehensive approach against cancer. We are also the only national charity that supports all Canadians living with cancers across the country.
Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence canadiancaregiving.org James Janeiro Director, Policy and Government Relations		
Canadian Institute for Advancements in Mental Health (IAM) www.iamentalhealth.ca/ Mary Alberti CEO		
Cancer Research Society https://www.societederechercheurlecancer.ca/en Dajan O'Donnell Director Scientific Partnerships	The Cancer Research Society is a pan-Canadian not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is to fund research on all types of cancer to help prevent, detect, and treat this disease.	Since 1945, CRS has focused 100% on cancer research, creating strong ties with the cancer research community. Charities have increasingly looked at partnerships with others to leverage their investments, with the CRS leading the way on this front and enabling smaller-sized charities to fund mandate-aligned research.
Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI) https://www.cabhi.com/ Bianca Stern Executive Director	To accelerate the development, validation, commercialization, dissemination, and adoption of novel solutions (innovative products, services, and best practices) that support older	CABHI's unique value proposition lies in its marriage of an integrated, interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral, and one-stop-shop approach to rapidly accelerate promising solutions with a deep and extensive network of

<p>Adi Rittenberg Knowledge Broker</p>	<p>Canadians in achieving optimal brain health.</p>	<p>care delivery organizations. CABHI's expertise in identifying and facilitating connections among individuals engaged in different aspects of translational research and innovation (students, researchers, clinicians, front-line care workers, entrepreneurs) on the one hand, and the full range of end-users and end-use contexts on the other, allows CABHI to bridge research and innovation from early stages to translation and knowledge mobilization, adoption, and commercialization. Core to CABHI's unique approach is a unifying focus on building and nurturing a culture of innovation across the full Canadian aging and brain health ecosystem, creating a fertile environment and system-level capacity for the rapid adoption of innovation-based solutions.</p>
<p>CIHR Institute of Aging (IA) www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/8671.html</p> <p>Jane Rylett Scientific Director</p> <p>Joanne Goldberg Assistant Director</p> <p>Etienne Murgues Program Director</p> <p>Ariane Geerts Scientific Project Manager</p>	<p>Mission The fundamental goal of IA is the advancement of knowledge in the field of aging to improve the quality of life and the health of older Canadians.</p> <p>Vision IA will champion health research on aging in Canada, and create innovative opportunities for research and researchers. All researchers working in the field of aging will want to be affiliated with the Institute. Policy makers will look to the Institute for information and advice, and use the knowledge we generate to develop more effective policies and services. Our work will enhance the health and lives of older Canadians.</p>	<p>CIHR-IA is a National Institution that encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, specifically there is a great opportunity for partnership across other institutions. Additionally, we have resources like a Knowledge Mobilization expert on staff which helps disseminate research findings. As part of CIHR the IA considers aspects of equity diversity and inclusivity in all funding opportunities. CIHR uses a rigorous peer review process to determine funding recipients which ensures that funded projects meet high scientific and ethical standards. CIHR-IA recently launched a new strategic plan which allows for targeted funding on timely issues.</p>
<p>CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/8688.html</p>	<p>The Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health supports research that ensures the best start in life for all Canadians and the achievement of their potential for optimal growth and development.</p>	

<p>Joanne Wincentak Lead, Partnerships and Knowledge Mobilization</p> <p>Ruth Warre Associate Director</p> <p>Emily Torr Assistant Director</p>		
<p>CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/8602.html</p> <p>Eric Marcotte Associate Scientific Director</p>	<p>INMHA supports research that enhances knowledge of the brain – mental health, neurological health, vision, hearing and cognitive functioning. Our goal is to reduce the burden of brain illness through prevention strategies, screening, diagnosis, treatment, support system and palliation. We will improve understanding of human thought and emotion, behaviour, sensation (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell) perception, learning, and memory.</p> <p>Our vision is that well-supported, excellent, innovative and ethically responsible discovery science, encompassing all aspects of nervous system and mental health research and clinical translation that results in quality healthcare, and respects the diversity of culture and values of all Canadians.</p> <p>Our mission is to enable cutting-edge Canadian-led research, clinical translation, innovation, and engagement that leads to new knowledge about the biological and sociocultural processes underlying neurologic, mental health and addiction disorders, and promotes optimal quality of life, health care, and outcomes.</p>	<p>As the Government of Canada's health research investment agency, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) supports excellence across all four pillars of health research: biomedical; clinical; health systems services; and population health.</p> <p>As stated in the CIHR Act, CIHR's mandate is to "excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system."</p> <p>As one of CIHR's 13 Institutes, the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) contributes to this mandate by supporting research, and knowledge translation and exchange focused on the functioning and disorders of the brain, spinal cord, sensory systems and the mind.</p>
<p>Consortium de recherche biopharmaceutique (CQDM) cqdm.org</p>	<p>CQDM is a not-for-profit biopharmaceutical research consortium whose mission is to support and facilitate multi-</p>	<p>CQDM has developed closed relationships with the biopharma industry, including global pharma and small canadian biotech, as well</p>

<p>Diane Gosselin CEO</p> <p>Véronique Dugas VP, Scientific Affairs</p>	<p>stakeholder collaborative R&D aimed at accelerating the translation of innovative technologies into solutions that address unmet medical needs, while generating significant benefits for the Quebec and Canadian economy.</p> <p>We will increase Canada's economic growth and wealth and improve the health of our population by contributing to a sustainable national life sciences innovation ecosystem as a long-term outcome.</p>	<p>as with Canadian experts. We are agile and open to collaboration with other organizations to design new cofunding programs to advance translation of discoveries into innovative products responding to unmet medical needs.</p>
<p>Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada www.dystoniacanada.org</p> <p>Archana Castelino National Director</p>	<p>The mission of the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Canada is to advance research for more treatments and ultimately a cure; to promote awareness and education; and to support the needs and well being of affected individuals and families.</p>	<p>The mission of the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Canada is to advance research for more treatments and ultimately a cure; to promote awareness and education; and to support the needs and well being of affected individuals and families.</p>
<p>Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada www.heartandstroke.ca</p> <p>Diego Marchese Executive Vice President, Mission, Research, Social Enterprise</p> <p>Manuel Arango Director, Health Policy & Advocacy</p>	<p>Mission: Promote health. Save lives. Enhance recovery. Vision: Life. Uninterrupted by heart disease and stroke.</p>	<p>Cross country presence. Credible & trusted by people in Canada. Effective at health information dissemination. Respected by governments.</p>
<p>Huntington Society of Canada www.huntingtonsociety.ca</p> <p>Shelly Redman Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Alexander Maxan Director of Research & Strategic Partnerships</p>	<p>VISION A world free from Huntington disease.</p> <p>MISSION To improve the quality of life for those affected by Huntington disease.</p>	<p>Our key strengths are our range of support services which include educational resources, counselling and support groups. We have also historically been involved in advocating for support of research efforts to better understand the disease.</p>
<p>Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) https://kidsbrainhealth.ca</p> <p>Nicky Lewis CEO</p>	<p>Vision: All children living with neurodevelopmental disabilities enjoy a good quality of life, inclusion in all aspects of society and reach their full potential.</p>	<p>The science of children's brain health is making advancements and KBHN is bridging the gaps between these scientific advances and implementing solutions that directly address the needs of</p>

<p>James Reynolds Chief Scientific Officer</p>	<p>Mission: Through catalyzing collective action across sectors, KBHN is working to ensure optimal care and better outcomes for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.</p>	<p>children and families. In delivering on its mission, KBHN is advancing federal responsibilities and priorities aimed at building a healthier future for children and families, building a barrier-free country and accelerating the pace of implementation, scale and spread of research innovations to unleash their full potential for healthier kids, healthier families, and social and economic benefits to Canada.</p> <p>Focused on helping kids live their best lives and easing the burden for families, KBHN identifies and funds the most promising research in kids brain health, working alongside families and partners and an extensive network of experts. Bridging the gap between scientific discovery and the families who need it most, KBHN builds and adapts implementation, commercialization and engagement processes that accelerate the pace of innovation to impact. From identifying the issue to putting the innovation into practice and scaling it, KBHN’s approach catalyzes available evidence-based solutions, making them accessible to those who need them.</p>
<p>Krembil Foundation www.krembilfoundation.ca</p> <p>Kate Williams Scientific Director</p>	<p>The goal of the Krembil Foundation is to accelerate research, expand knowledge and ultimately impact lives through discoveries that will lead to scientific advancements in medicine. Our main priorities are funding novel, cutting-edge research projects in neurodegeneration and arthritis.</p>	<p>We have flexible funding models that allow us to consider a wide variety of projects and ideas, and custom funding agreements to the needs of the project, in a timely manner. We fund a small portfolio of projects which allows us to develop and maintain strong partnerships and networks with researchers, institutes, and universities.</p>
<p>Mental Health Research Canada (MHRC) https://www.mhrc.ca</p> <p>Akela Peoples CEO</p> <p>Sarah Murphy</p>	<p>MHRC advances mental health knowledge to improve the lives of Canadians.</p>	

Manager, Grants & Studentships		
<p>Michael Smith Health Research BC https://healthresearchbc.ca/</p> <p>Bev Holmes President and CEO</p> <p>Muneerah Kassam Manager, Partnerships</p>	<p>Michael Smith Health Research BC is British Columbia's health research agency. We are working towards a future where BC is recognized worldwide for its vibrant, coherent, inclusive, and globally competitive health research system, which improves the health of British Columbians, the health system and the economy.</p>	<p>Our organization includes the following core teams: Clinical Trials BC, Research Ethics BC, the BC SUPPORT Unit and health research funding. Our three interconnected strategic directions that reflect our niche in BC's health research system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. build research talent for BC's future 2. catalyze change for a stronger health research system 3. mobilize communities for research impact
<p>Mitacs www.mitacs.ca</p> <p>Hannah Scott Business Development Specialist</p>		
<p>MS Canada https://mscanada.ca/</p> <p>Pamela Kanellis AVP, Research</p>	<p>Our Vision A world free of multiple sclerosis.</p> <p>Our Mission To connect and empower the MS community to create positive change.</p> <p>Our Values Impact-driven We make a difference.</p> <p>Collaborative We work together.</p> <p>Compassionate We help.</p> <p>Bold We think big.</p> <p>Resilient We do not give up.</p>	<p>Provide a patient voice for people living with MS; partnerships with various stakeholders</p>

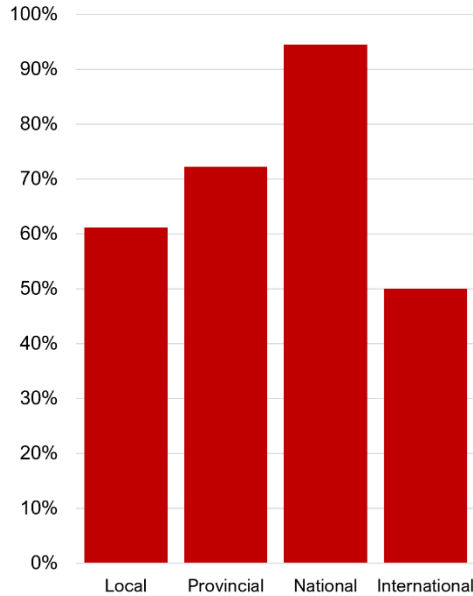
<p>Ontario Brain Institute www.braininstitute.ca</p> <p>Jordan Antflick Director, Integrated Discovery</p> <p>Brendan Behan Manager, Informatics & Analytics</p> <p>Sibel Naska Manager, Research Programs</p> <p>Angelika Aziz Intern</p>	<p>OBI's mission to is to make Ontario a world leader in brain research, commercialization, and care.</p> <p>In 30 years, there will be vast improvements to overall population health with brain disorders being diagnosed earlier, slowed, and even prevented. New treatments and a new generation of disease-modifying technologies will have flooded the market and we will understand the molecular fingerprint of brain diseases.</p> <p>Data connection rather than data collection will be the norm and there will be a seamless transition of knowledge from the laboratory to the bedside – improving the lives of those living with brain disorders.</p> <p>We will get there by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating the clinical research networks today, to support the vision for tomorrow. • Building upon our model of team science and expanding it on a national and international basis. • Creating the environment to connect clinical data sets and provide the technology, skills, and support to get real value out of the data. • Transferring the knowledge gained into new policies, practices, and technologies. • Keeping patients at the centre of what we do. 	<p>OBI provides value to the broader neuroscience community through concentrating on the following value elements:</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement & Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding who the various players are and how we ensure that they are engaged in the activity when they need to be. • Engaging patients/patient groups/advocates into all aspects of activities. <p>Ecosystem Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding where something starts, where it finishes, who the participants are in the system and their role, and the steps all the way through the process. <p>Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the capabilities of the individuals or groups in the ecosystem. <p>Virtuous Data Cycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle from collection of data up to ensuring that we get maximum value out of the data. Not just concentration on data collection but collecting the right data and ensuring that the data is to standards and ensuring that the data can be used in the appropriate way to get results. <p>Disruptive Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing people to think about things differently and outside their expectations. <p>Clinical Care Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are doing our research activities with a patient focus and that we are working at results that will benefit clinical activities. <p>Evidence Based Approach</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the claims that are made by scientists or business owners can be validated with science. <p>Partnership Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring people together to work on a specific problem/issue/opportunity. <p>Promotion of Network Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate what happens in the entire network/group that we work with.
<p>Palix Foundation www.palixfoundation.org</p> <p>Nancy Mannix Chair and Patron</p>		
<p>Parkinson Canada www.parkinson.ca</p> <p>Karen Lee President and CEO</p> <p>Angelica Asis VP, Research</p>	<p>A better life today for People Living with Parkinson's; a world without Parkinson's tomorrow.</p>	<p>We provide direct support for people with Parkinson's, through programs such as a live information and referral line, support groups, and webinars. We have a connection to multiple stakeholders in the Parkinson's community, including patients, care providers, healthcare providers, other non-profit and patient advocacy groups, researchers, and industry. We share common gaps and opportunities with other neurological and brain research organizations, which could lend itself to joint programming or funding efforts.</p>
<p>Weston Family Foundation www.westonfoundation.ca</p> <p>Cristina Tang Associate Program Director</p> <p>Teenu Sanjeevan Program Manager</p>	<p>The Weston Family Foundation invests in innovation and learning in Health and Landscapes to deliver measurable impacts to the well-being of Canadians.</p>	
<p>Women's Brain Health Initiative (WBHI) womensbrainhealth.org</p> <p>Lynn Posluns Founder, President, Board Chair</p>		

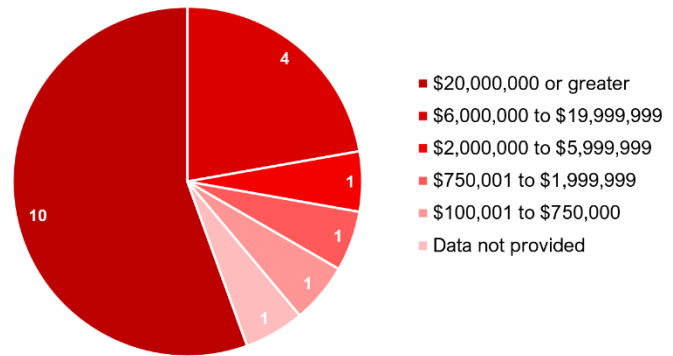


2023 FUNDERS' SURVEY RESULTS†

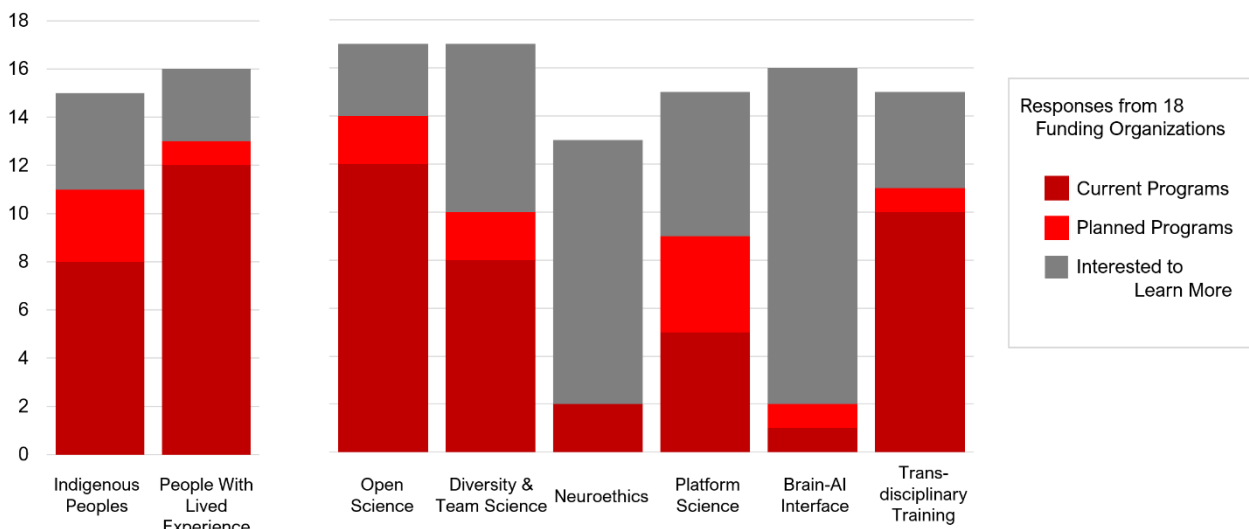
Scope of Funding Programs



Organization Annual Budget



Shared Strategic Priorities



† Note: This report reflects information as of 30-Oct-2023. Subsequent updates may not be reflected in this document.

Funders' Focused Group Meetings

Diversity and Team Science 2022-Oct-28	Transdisciplinary Training 2023-Mar-21	Indigenous Initiatives 2023-May-02	Open Science 2023-Oct-02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brain Canada Foundation ▪ Brain Tumour Foundation ▪ Campus Alberta Neuroscience ▪ Canadian Cancer Society ▪ Cancer Research Society ▪ Heart & Stroke Foundation ▪ Ontario Brain Institute ▪ Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada ▪ The Azrieli Foundation <p><u>Interested:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>ALS Society of Canada</i> ▪ <i>Alzheimer Society of Canada</i> ▪ <i>CIHR Institute of Aging</i> ▪ <i>CIHR Institute of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction</i> ▪ <i>Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brain Canada Foundation ▪ Campus Alberta Neuroscience ▪ Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence ▪ Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation ▪ CIHR Institute of Aging ▪ Huntington Society of Canada ▪ Mental Health Research Canada ▪ Ontario Brain Institute ▪ Parkinson Canada ▪ The Azrieli Foundation <p><u>Interested:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>ALS Society of Canada</i> ▪ <i>Alzheimer Society of Canada</i> ▪ <i>Brain Tumour Foundation</i> ▪ <i>Cancer Research Society</i> ▪ <i>CIHR Institute of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction</i> ▪ <i>Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada</i> ▪ <i>Heart & Stroke Foundation</i> ▪ <i>Krembil Foundation</i> ▪ <i>MS Society of Canada</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALS Society of Canada ▪ Brain Canada Foundation ▪ Brain Tumour Foundation ▪ Campus Alberta Neuroscience ▪ Canadian Cancer Society ▪ Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation ▪ CIHR Institute of Aging ▪ Heart & Stroke Foundation ▪ Huntington Society of Canada ▪ Kids Brain Health Network ▪ MS Canada ▪ Ontario Brain Institute ▪ The Azrieli Foundation ▪ Weston Family Foundation <p><u>Interested:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Alzheimer Society of Canada</i> ▪ <i>Cancer Research Society</i> ▪ <i>Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALS Society of Canada ▪ Boehringer Ingelheim ▪ Brain Canada Foundation ▪ Brain Tumour Foundation ▪ Campus Alberta Neuroscience ▪ CIHR Institute of Aging ▪ Heart & Stroke Foundation ▪ Huntington Society of Canada ▪ Krembil Foundation ▪ Michael Smith Health Research BC ▪ Mitacs ▪ MS Canada ▪ Ontario Brain Institute ▪ Parkinson Canada ▪ The Azrieli Foundation <p><u>Interested:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Alzheimer Society of Canada</i> ▪ <i>Cancer Research Society</i> ▪ <i>Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada</i> ▪ <i>Weston Family Foundation</i>

OVERVIEW OF FUNDER'S REPORT ON DIVERSITY & TEAM SCIENCE

Understanding Diversity & Team Science

1. Definition of diversity & team science
2. Emerging perspectives on diversity & team science

Major Discussion Themes

1. Addressing the diversity of researchers being funded
 - a. Capacity building
 - b. Concrete changes to award processes and policies
 - c. Metrics to measure DEI impact and progress
2. Addressing the diversity of research participants
 - a. Through grant funding requirements
 - b. Addressing inequalities in the healthcare system
 - c. By inclusion of people with lived experience (PWLE)
 - d. Carrying out research with Indigenous communities

Conclusion & Action Items

1. Future meetings on diversity & team science
2. Funders' focused meeting on transdisciplinary training and research
3. Dedicated meeting on Indigenous initiatives

OVERVIEW OF FUNDER'S REPORT ON TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING (PATIENT PERSPECTIVES)

Understanding Transdisciplinary Research & Training

1. Definition of transdisciplinary research & training
2. Emerging perspectives on transdisciplinary research & training and engagement of people with lived experience (PWLE)

Major Discussion Themes

1. Empowering funding programs for inclusive research with PWLE partners
2. Integrating PWLE in a non-tokenistic review process
3. Incorporating knowledge mobilization to enhance community engagement
4. Current needs to create and advance transdisciplinary programs

Conclusion & Action Items

1. Future meeting on open science to include PWLE perspectives

2. Future meetings on transdisciplinary research & training
 - Industry partners
 - Science policy and advocacy

OVERVIEW OF FUNDERS' REPORT ON INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

Understanding Indigenous Initiatives

1. Four guiding principles of CBRS Indigenous Initiatives
2. Emerging perspectives on Indigenous Initiatives

Major Discussion Themes

1. Capacity building - Indigenous-targeted funding programs
 - a. Developing and building Indigenous-drive innovation
 - b. Indigenous health and solution development
 - c. Indigenous trainee mentoring and academic support
2. Key considerations for Indigenous engagements
 - a. Awareness, understanding and patience impact the quality of Indigenous engagement and partnerships
 - b. Learning from and developing community-based solutions and approaches is crucial
3. Solutions and successes in Indigenous engagements

Conclusion & Action Items

1. Opportunity for partnerships on Indigenous-targeted engagements
2. Two-Eyed Seeing Through Compound Eyes Workshop